Dear Phil, 9/20/84

You ask about Ray's duplicate driver's license. I do not have a separate subject file on it and do not now have the time full checking would require. So, here is what I recall.

He had had a room on Highland in B'ham, whether 2606 I do not recall. Not long before he left California for the last time he was in some kind of brawl or was robber, lost his wallet and with it lost this drivers license. A duplicate was requested by phone and then cost only 25¢. I do not recall if the 25¢ was taken or mailed but I think the latter.

Ray's phone bills for when he had a phone in California were obtained by the FBI and I recall no call that could have been for a duplicate license. Therefore, it has always seemed probable to me that someone in B'ham or who went there for that purpose made the request and paid the quarter and was at the flophouse to receive and mail the license without which he would not have dared start out on the trip east. Which was not very long after the request was made.

As I now recall my impression of the time it is that this is one of the indications of a conspiracy that the FBI avoided. I recall nothing that could be called an investigation to determine whether he had unknown associates in or near B'ham.

I think the name of the man with whom he stayed is Peter Cherpes, and it is not impossible that Ray had phoned or written him asking to do this little thing for him. But if there wasn't there should have been an investigation. I do not now recall if Cherpes was asked by the FBI.

I do have a B'ham file, of odds and ends, and I've checked it, finding nothing at all except that Cherpes is correct and the address given is 2608. If this was a double house used as one the 2606 could be correct still.

In haste,